

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with Captain Bright and State's Attorney present.

The Roll Call showed all members present with the exception of Mr. McGlaughlin and Mr. Wolfe.

Mr. Smith led the members in Prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. APPOINTMENTS

1. Resolution G-2802-7-05 - Re-appointment to Macon County 708 Mental Health Board

Sandra S. Walker, 915 Main St., Mt. Zion, IL 62549
Term Expires: June 30, 2009

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-2802-7-05.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Cox, Drobisch, Dunn, Durbin, Hogan, Jacobs, Little, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder, Zaiz

Nays: (None)

AYES = 19

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Resolution G-2803-7-05 - Re-appointment to Macon County 708 Mental Health Board

Ann Seidman, 610 S. Monroe, Decatur, IL 62522
Term Expires: June 30, 2009

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-2803-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Resolution G-2804-7-05 - Appointment to Macon County Zoning Board of Appeals

John E. Currie, 10582 Norfolk Rd., Cerro Gordo, IL 61818
Term Expires: May 31, 2010

MOTION

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-2804-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said there is another appointment on the docket, but with the Boards permission he would like to withdraw it from the agenda. He said it is not a reflection on the person at all. Apparently, the attorney for the Fire Protection District raised some questions this afternoon about the appointment process.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked what is wrong with the process.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said he is not aware of what the questions are.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said he had a call from a Precinct Committeeman in South Wheatland Township, and he is very much in favor of this. He asked what they did wrong.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said he had a telephone call at about 4:00 from Tara. She told him the attorney for the fire protection district was in the office making a fuss, saying they had another name. Mr. Wolfe is under the weather, so Mr. Sampson felt they should just postpone this until next month. He thinks that Mr. Wolfe will probably make the same appointment next month.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs just wondered why they were questioning the process because it sounded like it was done properly.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said he doesn't think the name reflected on Resolution G-2805-7-05 is the choice of the trustees of that fire department, and he thinks those trustees have an alternate name in mind.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said he agreed with that, but that has not been the practice of our Chairman of this Board. Mr. Jacobs said he has lost fire people in Macon and Elwin because of

the Chairman's liking, so that is when the process is not followed.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said given the importance of these and our past controversies, he thought it would be best to pull this thing until the Chairman can be here to do it himself, if that is ok with the Board.

ZONING

4. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution Z-1030-7-05 which is regarding Case S-03-05-05 a Special Use request by Robert L. And Beverly A. Ketenbrink. In March 1986 a Special Use Permit was issued for the use of a part of approximately four (4) acres for office and outside storage ground for equipment and vehicles used in conjunction with their business, Central Illinois Building Systems, Inc. And Spacemark, Inc. A condition was attached to the issuance of said Special Use Permit which limited the number of vehicles and other construction equipment stored outside to three (3). The petitioners filed for an amendment to said previously issued Special Use Permit to allow the total number of vehicles and other construction equipment stored outside to be increased to fifteen (15). After hearing the evidence, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously to recommend that the previously issued Special Use Permit be amended and the petition be granted with two (2) conditions. The EEHW Committee met and reviewed the petition as requested and concurred with the findings of the Zoning Board of Appeals, provided the conditions are attached to the approval of the request.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution Z-1030-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

The Petitioner was present at the meeting.

There were no Objectors present at the meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2005 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Durbin moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2005 meeting by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Internet Decatur Foundry stating that all operations of Wagner Castings Company d/b/a Internet Decatur Foundry located at 825 N. Lowber in Decatur will be permanently discontinued and will be closed on a permanent basis. The entire workforce will be terminated which includes 328 employees.

Notice of Public Meetings from Illinois EPA regarding Salt Creek and Lower Sangamon River Watershed to be held July 5, 2005 at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois and July 6, 2005 at Public Library of Springfield in Springfield, Illinois.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report - June 2005

Coroner's Report - April, May and June 2005

Macon County Collector's Report - May 2005

Macon County Treasurer's Report - May and June 2005

Auditor's Report - June 2005

Public Defender's Report - June 2005

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve the Correspondence and Reports and that they be placed on file by prior roll vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams asked what time frame Internet gave for closing their foundry. He asked if they gave a 60 day window.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said first separations will take place during a fourteen day period beginning September 5, 2005.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. CLAIMS

MOTION

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve the Claims and pay when funds become available by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

6. Mr. Snyder presented Resolution G-2806-7-05 which is regarding approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Police Authority between the Village of Argenta; the Argenta Police Department and the Macon County Sheriff's Department.

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-2806-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

EEHW COMMITTEE

7. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-2807-7-05 which is approving a lease between the City of Decatur, by its Managing Agent, the Community Investment Corporation of Decatur and Macon County Solid Waste Management Department.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Durbin to approve Resolution G-2807-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

QUESTION:

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said he had a question for Mr. Dunn from the EEHW Committee. He was under the impression that the rewording or revamping of our County Ordinances would be voted on tonight. He was obviously mistaken, but he asked if they knew what is going on with that and when it would come before the full Board.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he was not sure.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said along with that, and he told Mr. Sampson that he wouldn't try to bring this up for a vote in our Chairmans absence and he wouldn't, but we have somewhere between 5 and 8 applications where individuals have applied for the agricultural exemption. They did it after the last ones we approved and he would like to see that go through committee and come to the full board for a vote, at possibly the next Board meeting. He said if his understanding is correct, this would be the last group we would see because when we revamp the County Zoning Ordinances there will be a 45 or 60 day window of opportunity where individuals

can come back and apply. If they haven't by that time, then they would basically not be eligible for a refund. The ones that are still out there are kind of still in limbo and have fallen through the cracks. He would like to see the Board be able to bring those to some type of satisfactory conclusion.

Mr. Mark Smith: Mr. Mark Smith said with regard to the ordinance the draft was completed approximately six weeks ago. He asked the Chairman whether he wanted it to go to committee or the Regional Planning Commission or whatever. There was some indication there was going to be some kind of special group and that is where it is.

OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

8. Mr. Smith presented Resolution G-2808-7-05 which is approving Voter Registration Life Cycle Agreement with Fidler Election Company.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution G-2808-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

COMMENT:

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith this is an agreement to upgrade voter registration software in the County Clerk's Office.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked where they are getting the funding.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said it will come out of the County Clerk's budget.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if he has it.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said he has enough to get through this year. If he has to do it next year and the Board does not give him any additional money, he will have to cut staff. Because of the new regulations with HAVA, and even though we were told today that the feds and the State are going to pay for the new equipment, the programming for reading those 100 or so ballot styles is going to fall to the responsibility of the County to pay for every year. It will about another \$12,000 or \$13,000 on top of our other contract, on an annual basis. The problem is that the current system will not.... If House Bill 1968 is passed, they have already, through another bill brought in what they call Grace Period Voter Registration. Twenty-eight days before an election, regular registration closes. Now, after regular registration closes there is going to be a two week period in which we have to still keep voter registration open in the office. At the same time, if you come in or change your name and so forth, we have to allow you to vote. We have to program those separately and denote those separately. At the same time, while House Bill 1968 begins what they call early voting, we will have to be offsite. This will also require the office to be open 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 on Saturday and Sunday and any holidays during that early voting period.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if this has passed yet.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said it has passed both the House and the Senate and the Governor is going to sign it within the next 30 days.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if there is any funding in this House Bill.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said no. They exempted us. The main thing they did was to exempt all elections laws from the mandate act.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Bean if he is saying he had the money in his budget now.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said he can pay for the rest of this year. He will have to have an increase. Mr. Bean said he differed from his association because originally his association fought the idea of a centralized computer system. Both political parties didn't exactly like the State running it because all they could think of was what happened with the Child Support and what would happen on Election Day if the system went down. Now, we have our individual systems. He was banking on that happening. We should have bought new software several years ago. When he first started talking to them the software was \$1,000 more a month, and he got them down to this.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said he was just asking if he had the money now and then next year he will probably need the same amount of money or more.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said this is locked in for three years at this price.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said it will be a three year thing that we have and Steve has the money now, so we will have to work with the budget to get it in there next year.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said he has fought with them to keep the price down with just adding what it would cost us to make these disks.

Ms. Wilkins: Ms. Wilkins asked if Mr. Bean already has the hardware.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said no that is going to be something else, but he thinks he can buy it with what he already has in the budget for this year. We didn't spend as much on election judges.

Ms. Wilkins: Ms. Wilkins asked if he knows how much the hardware is going to cost.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said roughly around \$10,000. We are looking at using the file server we have now to save that file server cost and then we would just have to buy two PC's with XP. He said if we don't have the money to buy them, we will just move them from one part of the office to another. It will put us in a bind. We are using a software product that is 12 years old. He has gotten a lot of complaints and some from city council candidates from the last election about how our programs are set up where the information on the voter files can't be manipulated in

certain ways. With the new system, we will be able to have a lot more variety in the way we can produce voter files for campaigns. He said they may be able to generate a little bit of money that way, but it is not much.

Ms. Wilkins: Ms. Wilkins asked if \$12,000 would be the cost for this year because \$2,200 a month is....

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said it is roughly \$12,000 for the end of this year, between now and the end of the year. This probably won't start until August. We will save some money on our County care which will go down dramatically. He said that is our software maintenance. Mr. Bean said he was banking on the State taking this over and then we would be under State control, but it didn't happen.

Ms. Wilkins: Ms. Wilkins said so next year it will be \$26,000.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said yes, \$2,200 a month. He said they need to remember that besides doing voter registration it does all of the election functions of preparing the ballot styles and all of that. It is a complex system.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said they would take care of G-2809-7-05 after closed session.

FINANCE

9. Mr. Drobisch presented Resolution G-2810-7-05 which is approving the establishment of the Capital Project Revolving Fund.

MOTION

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-2810-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

COMMENT:

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said they discussed this in caucus and it is for capital purchases and for leases.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said yes. We can do it cheaper in house than we can to go out and lease the equipment or buy the equipment through a loan or a lease to own type transaction.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Mr. Drobisch presented Resolution G-2811-7-05 which is approving appropriation for

Capital Project Revolving Fund.

MOTION

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution 2811-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Mr. Drobisch presented Resolution G-2812-7-05 which is approving increase in appropriations in the Sheriff's Budget.

MOTION

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-2812-7-05 by prior roll call vote..

QUESTION:

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum asked if this is an increase in something in a contract.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said there are contracts that are being signed for the municipalities and they pay a certain percentage up-front as the resolution says. This will help the Sheriff buy the cars.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Mr. Drobisch presented Resolution G-2813-7-05 which is approving an agreement with Youth Advocate Program.

MOTION

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-2813-7-05.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Drobisch said they will present Resolution G-2814-7-05 after closed session.

The Negotiations Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

13. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1415-7-05 which is approving permission for Verizon to install buried telephone lines.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1415-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1416-7-05 which is approving permission for Verizon to relocate a phone cable.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution H-1416-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1417-7-05 which is approving permission for Verizon to relocate a phone cable.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1417-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1418-7-05 which is approving permission for Cochran Engineering to install a storm sewer and manhole on W. Forsyth Rd. (CH 20) in Forsyth.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1418-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1419-7-05 which is approving permission for the City of Decatur to install a water main.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1419-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith asked if this pertains to the issue they discussed last month regarding a water tower going up somewhere down there. He asked if this is in Elwin.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said this is to loop into the system for that water tower. It is part of the grand plan down there.

MOTION CARRIED. (MEACHUM SHOWED HIS VOTE AS PRESENT)

The Executive Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Macon County Building Sub-Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

OFFICEHOLDER'S REMARKS:

Mr. Grimm: Mr. Grimm said it is always a pleasure to be able to come up when he has good news. Tomorrow, on Friday \$100,000 will be transferred from the General Corporate Fund to the Social Security Fund. As you know in the budget, \$100,000 was earmarked to start the process of repaying the old debt. This is a good faith effort to take a step in the right direction. After reviewing the General Corporate balance on Wednesday, he felt this was the time to get this underway. If we have the cash in the General Fund in November, we will take a serious look at another payment on the old debt. Social Security was chosen because it is the fund we have had to shore up for the last two years. He felt it was prudent to put the \$100,000 on that. He distributed to the Board members some information regarding Internal Loans for Macon County. They have seen this before. He just updated it. This is just a tiny step in the right direction. He is glad we were able to make it. Mr. Grimm said he also distributed some Sales Tax information to the Board. On the sheet in brackets it shows what has been received so far. The amount is up over 2004 and 2003. They are not big jumps, except for the Personal Property Replacement Tax which took a big jump from \$74,000 to \$101,000. He said that is just part of the picture for July. The other thing he has is that they received Safety Tax money a couple of days ago. In July 2004, we received \$179,759 and in July 2005, \$195,627, so it continues to climb.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said there is a fantastic event going on in downtown Decatur right

now and it is called Cruising Downtown Decatur. There are over 350 cars and motorcycles. There is live entertainment, food and anything they want. He strongly suggested they go down after the Board meeting. It is really nice to see such an event going on in downtown Decatur.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he appreciated all of the due diligence that Amy Stockwell did on our Bond Issue. It was reported at the last Finance meeting that we saved about \$1,600,000. It took a lot of digging and scratching on that and he appreciated her work on it.

Ms. Stockwell: Ms. Stockwell thanked the Board for the support they gave her in doing this project. This proves that County government works. We put together a legal and financial team that involved this Board, officeholders, our attorneys and attorneys on the same team with the Building Commission. We really took an in depth look at the transaction and were flexible and creative and everybody put their heads together and the result was a savings of \$1,600,000 to the taxpayers of Macon County. She thanked them for their support and applauded the kind of approach to sound financial management that this project and other projects reflect in terms of the management of County government these days.

CITIZEN'S REMARKS:

Alice Shaw: Mrs. Alice Shaw lives at 1638 Highland Court. She was at a Park Singers Concert and met Ms. Wilkins and Mr. Sampson who passed out cards and said if she ever needed any help, she should call them. She and her friends live along the Stevens Creek Basin. This is the very place that the Park District wishes to put their bike path. Each year, more and more the place floods and when the creek floods, it is a roaring river. She said she doesn't back down from that statement even though the newspaper took issue with it. It really, with the loss of farmland up ahead and the paving with residential and commercial buildings, the mall and parking lots, more and more water is coming down. Not only does the creek rage, but when it goes over it's banks, it floods the whole lowland to a point where she can take her boat over fences and through treetops. This is a lot of water, and this is the place they wish to put the bike path. It entails cutting a swatch 15 feet wide, which will cut down trees and eliminate all of this wetland, and put down a ten foot wide paved path. It will not only destroy the wetland that it is replacing. It will increase the flooding and will be really expensive to maintain because it will bring in silt and debris and will erode and undermine it. It will just cost a lot. They think a bike path is a wonderful idea, but they are asking them to put it in a safe place. It should be a place that is safe for the environment, a place that is safe for the path itself and a place that is safe for the people who will be using it. If you have water moving that fast.... She has seen in Arizona, the water move cars down stream and people could drown in it. We don't want anyone to drowned in our outback. The Park District received a \$2,400,000 grant two years ago from IDOT. They have kept their proceedings very secret. It wasn't until two months ago that she and her neighbors received a notice from the Corp of Engineers that they were going to proceed and if we had any comments we had 30 days to do it. We have also received a reply that said if we don't provide them with our land they will condemn it and take it through eminent domain. She said two of their people who have plans for an alternate plan are not here at the meeting. Mrs. Shaw said they have offered the Park District alternate suggestions. What they really want is a safe place for this bike path to go, but it has fallen on deaf ears. They don't seem to think that our objections are clear. So they are hoping that the County Board can use their influence to put

this in a safe place. They talk about for all the people of Decatur. Well, they are the people and they are asking for the County's help.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum asked her where she lives.

Mrs. Shaw: Mrs Shaw said she live at 1638 Highland Ct.

Mr. Albert Hagymasy: Mr. Hagymasy lives at 1657 Highland Ct. He has the same headaches as those he was with, the bike path. He asked the Board members to please take a look at this. They could probably give a green light to the Park Board. The County Board can do a lot for them because they need them there and that is the reasons all of these citizens came to the meeting to take up their valuable time. He does not know why they don't go to a high ground. They have seen what they need to do, just make one side of a sidewalk wider, lets say 6 foot that is all that they want. He appreciated their time. Mr. Hagymasy said he never goes fishing on Eastmoreland on the lake side, so he doesn't know why people bother him on Stevens Creek. He said they need to respect each other. He thanked the Board.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

18. Mr. Sampson presented Resolution G-2815-7-05 which is allocating supervision authority over certain County Departments.

MOTION

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution G-2815-7-05.

COMMENT:

Mr. Durbin: Mr. Durbin said he is not going to vote in favor of this resolution. He is not in favor of giving the County Board Chairman any more power to him, whether perceived or real. Personally, he feels the County Board Chairman should be elected at large. This is giving the County Board Chairman way too much power. We are either going to run this County by committee or we are going to run it as a Board, but we can't have it both ways. He thinks this resolution allows the Chairman too much power and enables him to do it anyway he wants, so he is opposed to this.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith feels this resolution is clarifying something that is already in place. The rules of this Board very clearly state who the Chairman of the Board appoints, even though it may not be clearly stated who those people would report to. He said if any of them have read minutes from any of the committee meetings, he thinks it is shameful some of the things that have happened trying to usurp and go around things that need to be taken directly to, "the person's boss". This resolution is going to clarify that and make sure that doesn't happen again.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she has concerns about a resolution of this magnitude being

presented by being put in their boxes. A lot of Board members don't have a chance to pick up their packet until the day of the Board meeting. She thinks if you are going to change the structure of County government, more than 48 hours needs to be available so people can research their statutes and research the little booklet on County government so we know with certainty what we are saying. Her understanding, and she hasn't read the book that was printed in 1992 for quite some time, is that this resolution is basically dissolving the EEHW Committee, other than to review their budget. She takes offense to that. She thinks this is a County form of government. To her knowledge, and again she hasn't reviewed the little book, and she wasn't blaming anyone for that but herself, but her understanding is that if there is a problem with a department, that complaint should be taken to the oversight committee to be dealt with. If they have a committee that is derelict in their responsibilities to deal with that issue, that in itself is a problem. In defense of what looks to her to be an absolute stripping of the EEHW Committee, she thinks they have dealt with everything that has been brought before their committee, and she takes offense to this resolution.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox said the problem she has with this is that she doesn't think this resolution is going to solve anything. We have EEHW, and this is just an example, Melissa from Animal Control came to us and wanted a Walmart credit card because Animal Control is County government and they do not charge interest to the entity. She also asked permission to get a Morgan's gas card because with the new vehicle she has, she can save money with the E85. We authorized Animal Control to get those two cards. The next day the Chairman denied that. He sent a letter out to her denying what the EEHW Committee already told her she could do. Mrs. Cox feels like if he has a problem with the committees, he should come to them and talk to them about it before he informs them that he is in charge and he has the last say.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said he would get back on his soapbox about a full-time County Administrator. This is just another prime example of where you are trying to run County government with part-time oversight. You can't do it. He does not know of any business or industry with the size budget and scope of their responsibility, that does it with part-time people. This County is far past the point where we need to very seriously consider putting in a full-time position, so that these sort of things can be controlled better. We have trouble from time to time trying to coordinate one department with another. Another big issue that has come up is who is in charge. He thinks because the County Board is run by committee, that is the way it should be handled. In other words if there was a complaint or concern that comes in, it needs to be taken back to the appropriate committee to have it addressed with a recommendation coming out of the committee one way or the other as to how it going to be resolved. Anytime we get to the point where we are giving one person the responsibility, he feels like they are going down the wrong path. Mr. Drobisch thinks this resolution needs to be tabled and sent back to the appropriate committee whether it be personnel or EEHW and have it reviewed by one or both committees with a recommendation to come back to the County Board, so the County Board can make an informed decisions as to what the consequences of what they are doing will be.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to table Resolution G-2815-7-05.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Cox, Drobisch, Durbin, Hogan, Jacobs, Little, Westerman, Yoder, Zaiz

Nays: Dunn, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Wilkins, Williams

AYES: 9

NAYS: 10

MOTION FAILED. (TO TABLE)

COMMENT:

Ms. Wilkins: Ms. Wilkins asked if it is standard protocol during committee meetings that decisions are not made until the issue is brought before the County Board for a vote, or can a committee make decisions without having everyone involved to make a vote.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said the normal procedure is that committees produce motions and resolutions that the full Board then votes on. There are very few things, if any, that a committee can do by itself. Some of the matters that have been discussed are more internal policy issues, credit cards, gas cards and that sort of thing. It is somewhat of an unclear area. In the case of the credit cards they would have differing rulings by the Finance Committee on one hand and the EEHW Committee on the other.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he is Chairman of the EEHW Committee and was involved in the credit card issue and gas card issue. Those things were brought up in EEHW and a decision was made and then was overridden by the Chairman. However, Mr. Dunn said after he looked back on it and checked into it with the Auditor and some other things, he thinks the Chairman made the right decision. Mr. Dunn said he did not think the committee had all of the facts when they made that decision and that is one reason they need this resolution. Somebody has got to be a leader. He needs to delegate things to the committees in order to get everything done. Mr. Dunn does not think one guy can do it all, but there still needs to be a leader who controls those offices. Therefore, he is in favor of this resolution.

Ms. Wilkins: Ms. Wilkins said she agrees because if every committee is able to make a decision on their own, it could potentially cause some chaos.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said he would refer back to what he said earlier and it goes back to those people in this room that have been previous Board Chairman and the people they appoint to various positions, be it Animal Warden, Highway Superintendent, people like that. There are policy issues that need to go through committees. However, regarding day to day issues, they have to have a person to report to. Employees of the County that work for various officeholders, such as the County Clerk, the Auditor, they go to those folks. He asked what happens if somebody wants a day off. They would not go to a full committee to ask for that. Mr. Smith thinks it is pretty well spelled out in his mind. He does not think they are rewriting County government. He thinks they are making it a little bit clearer and clarifying some issues that may

have been murky, but it is much needed.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan asked how it now stands. Does the Chairman of the Board now have supervision over these departments and if he does, how much?

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said yes the Chairman does have the authority, but evidently some of the departments don't see it that way, so this will clarify that issue.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan said it is a gray area at this point.

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said he does not think this will be quite so gray if this passes.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she would like to know what personnel issues there are on a day to day basis, that a Chairman who is not here often at all, is going to be able to handle. She asked if this authority is really going to the Chairman, or is it going to whoever he has got covering for him that day.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said the resolution says the County Board Chairman shall have general supervision of such departments, which shall include day-to-day supervision and personnel. The County Board Chairman is the only person named in that clause.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said Mr. Smith had said if someone wants a day off, who would they go to. If the Chairman isn't here on any kind of a regular basis, who is it going to? Do they go to his house? Do they call him on the phone? Do they just hope he is in on the day they need to talk to him? She said that is her concern. If the authority is going to be given to someone else in the County Board Office, then this resolution is not worded well.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said that Mr. Drobisch, Mr. Sampson and himself are probably the strongest advocates for a County Manager. Once again it points out the shortcomings of government by committee. One of the things we have going on more than anything else, is that we have people who want to stroke their own fiefdoms as they are elected officials in this County, and because of that we have more difficulties in trying to make decisions. One of the main things that hurts this kind of government more than anything else is people who do not participate in their committee meetings. Consequently, they are uninformed and the Board as a whole is uninformed because of the committee structure. As Mrs. Little said earlier, 48 hours to decide whether or not you are going to make a decision that is worthwhile.... We know neither the pros or the cons of why a committee chose to do what it did. If it is something that is popular with enough members of this Board, it passes regardless of what is said. There is not enough information given in the minutes of those meetings to know what the pros and cons are. He would like to know himself in certain situations why they arrived at the decision they did to bring back to the Board, saying this is the way it should be from the committee reports. He has been a strong advocate for a County Manager. One of the things that probably made a lot of people take notice was because we were so far in debt. He said that is starting to come around and he thinks they are going to go off into the sunset again without doing anything to really make this government work. It doesn't work because we are not working it to the best advantage. We never have study sessions. We never have policy sessions. The right hand never knows what the

left hand is doing. Somebody somewhere has got to take some responsibility to make the whole thing work. There is no cohesion on this Board at all between committees, none whatsoever. It is no secret. It has been going on like this for years and years. Before he came on this Board he often wondered how it worked. He still doesn't know how it works and he has been here for eight years and had four elections and still doesn't know how it works. He would like to come to some kind of consensus with the rest of his peers on this Board to make government work the way it ought to, to satisfy its constituents. This County would not have near the problems it has or has had, financially or anything else if there was someone who could stand and make a stand about the conditions of the County, its problems and the solutions it takes to make it work. Quit playing politics, which they do on this Board tremendously. He agreed with Mr. Drobisch and would not vote for this resolution because he would like to see a County Manager. They know that from his past experience here. Somebody has got to stop the buck from spinning. A committee makes a report. They take in information and the buck just spins and spins and spins and nobody ever says whoa, stop we're going to take your suggestion and do something with it. It just spins and spins like a wheel going around and every now and then someone throws a cog in it and something might happen. We have got to stop this if we are going to have a government that the people are really looking forward to having and owning and can be proud of. Macon County government is a sore spot as far as politicians are concerned in this community. We need to do something about it, and now is a good chance to start.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said he served as County Board Chairman for two years. He had a full-time assistant who was here from 8:00 to 4:00 every day. Mr. Jacobs said he knew what was going on every day. The Committee Chairman had access to him. The secretaries had access to him. He went to every committee meeting and gave us a report on them. We either need a full-time administrator or assistant to the chairman who is here every day and then he thinks County government could work better.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said every committee takes minutes of their proceedings. He said he reads those minutes and if he has a question when the report is given, he asks it. Mr. Smith encouraged his fellow Board members, if you're not doing it, do it, because that is what you're supposed to do.

Ms. Zaiz: Ms. Zaiz said when she was first appointed last year she promised Buck some things. At that time she started asking for documentation. She asked for the rules of the Board then and a year later she was given the same thing. They are outdated. They are not clear. It is the same thing with the Personnel Handbook that she asked for that was made back in the 70's or 80's. She said that still has not been brought to the Board. It is like Mr. Sampson has been asking for a new Zoning Ordinance and every time a zoning comes up Mr. Sampson votes no because of that. Ms. Zaiz said that is why she has trouble with this tonight. These are not clear. They are not specific. They have OPL in basically three different committees. The personnel policy is from the County Coordinators Office. We don't have that. There is a lot in here that doesn't exist anymore. She can't vote on something that doesn't exist anymore. It asks for the policy and we don't have one that the Board has approved. She goes along with the concerns of many of her fellow colleagues about what is wrong in the County. But, two wrongs don't make a right. When things don't get done on one hand, they tend not to get done on the other hand either. She was hoping we could at least get the groundwork, the rules of the Board clear and settled here

and the handbook clear and settled so we would know what we are working with, what the roots of the thing are. From there, the other troubles we have been discussing can easily be taken care of. She said what she was taught in school and what she learned in the real world is it all works and it makes sense if you do them. But, when they're not done, then it all breaks apart. She said that is why she can't vote for this tonight.

Ms. Wilkins: Ms. Wilkins said that everybody is probably absolutely right. But, in getting to the scope of what we are talking about and what we are doing here it appears to her, at this time, and she feels she can say whatever she wants because she is new, that we need some type of leadership. With everything we have discussed here tonight, the things that are wrong and the things that could get better, there is some type of leadership that is needed. It seems to her that Mr. Wolfe is their leader. At this time maybe we can make this decision because we already voted that we are going to vote on this tonight. She does not know how that will go but thinks we should go ahead and do that and decide from there because we need some type of leadership. Something needs to be done differently. Maybe they could have a committee get together and look at all of these issues because she feels they do have legitimate concerns about the Board and the way it should go. We should definitely not put that aside but at some point form a committee to look at all of these different issues. We need to stay in the scope of what we need tonight which is a leadership role to help with these situations when people come in and they have been strong armed and there is no one there they can lean on or talk to, to help with issues. There is not something in place right now where we can go pick and choose, but we have a good leader at this point. So, if we could just vote on that part and consider that type of leadership for now and then later bring in everything else that needs to be discussed to help the Board get to where it needs to be in the future.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she would encourage, before we go to changing things or setting in stone things that are really vague, our Chairman to have regular monthly meetings with all the Chairs of the committees of this Board to have a heads-up of what's going on in the committees without having to hear it through the grapevine or try to figure it out. She does not think that is beyond the scope of reasonable, that the Chairman of the Board should meet with the Chairman of the Committees to stay up on what's going on. He has a real job. He can't be expected to attend every single committee meeting. She understands that and does not have a problem with that. But, that does not exclude him from being responsible for knowing what is going on, on those committees. She thinks he needs to keep in close contact on a regular, dedicated effort to keep in touch with his own Chairman, whom he appointed.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said in defense of the Chairman who is not here to defend himself, he does have the Executive Committee.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if they meet.

Mrs. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said he stopped having meetings because the Committee Chairman would not show up for the meetings.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said he needs to appoint new Committee Chairman then. He appointed those Chairman.

Marilyn Riley: Mrs. Riley said they all know her. For several years she served as assistant to several different Board Chairman. She worked for Rob Owen, Kevin Kehoe and Joe McGlaughlin. She was the go to person. The Board Chairman intrusted her with making decisions. They gave her leeway to deal with day to day problems. If they brought something to her that she did not think was in her power to decide, she called the Board Chairman. You need someone in this building every day from 8:30 to 4:30 who can make decisions. She said they have heard the saying that a camel is a horse put together by a committee. You have to have somebody there to be a standup person, which she is and she has made mistakes and suffered greatly for them. She thinks it is a mistake to put this much authority in a County Board Chairman. She does not care who the Chairman is or what party he or she is from. Mrs. Riley thinks it is a grave mistake. They need somebody who is going to be here, who everybody knows if they go to her, to me, to him they are going to give you a good solid answer. Her Board Chairman, almost without exception, said to her, we trust you, you make the decisions and we will stand behind you, and 99% of the time it worked. Mrs. Riley said if she were on this Board they would have a filibuster tonight to not allow this resolution to pass.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said Mrs. Riley said exactly what he was wanting to say before they voted and he was saving it. Mr. Jacobs said he had someone who worked for him and he thought that was Al Brandt. He would like the Board to consider voting that position back into a budgetary position for this Board again. It disappeared and he has heard two or three different reasons why. Nobody who was here before him has ever explained to him why it disappeared. It is an amazing thing. It would sort of draft along with what he has been saying about having someone be responsible to catch that rolling ball. He said if they are going to vote up or down they should keep in mind that, that is probably the next thing we should consider in the new budgetary year to get someone in there to help make this thing work. It is chaotic. It is a lot of things and he would not want to lose his religion by trying to explain how he really feels about it.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Dunn, Hogan, Meachum, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Wilkins, Williams

Nays: Cox, Drobisch, Durbin, Jacobs, Little, Westerman, Yoder

Present: Zaiz

Abstention: Oliver

AYES = 10

NAYS = 7

PRESENT = 1

ABSTENTION = 1

MOTION CARRIED. (RES. G-2815-7-05)

19. Mr. Sampson presented Resolution G-2816-7-05 which is approving an agreement with the

Department of Human Services for the Youth Advocate Program.

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mrs. Taylor to approve Resolution G-2816-7-05.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Cox, Drobisch, Dunn, Durbin, Hogan, Jacobs, Little, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder, Zaiz

Nays: (None)

AYES = 19

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

QUESTION:

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams asked if the County has jurisdiction in regard to the citizens who were concerned about the bike path issue.

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said he wrote a note to himself about whether the County Board could do anything about it. He said he would look into it. He doubts they can, but he would look into it.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said he knows there are other individuals because he works with someone who is quite involved with it. He suspects there is nothing the County could do. He thinks the particular area they are talking about is in the unincorporated area, which would fall in our jurisdiction.

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said he would find out the options so the Board knows where they stand.

MOTION TO CLOSE SESSION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to go into closed session to discuss several settlement issues by prior roll call vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to return to open session by prior roll call vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Mr. Smith presented Resolution G-2809-7-05 which is authorizing Attorney Ed Flynn to attempt to settle three Worker Compensation Cases.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution G-2809-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

21. Mr. Drobisch presented Resolution G-2814-7-05 which is approving the settlement of a claim by Eric Barger.

MOTION

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mr. Dunn to approve Resolution G-2814-7-05 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Durbin moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to adjourn until Thursday, August 11, 2005 at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.